

NDRC Project Information Sheet

Submission Deadline; July 10, 2015, Project Information can be submitted on line at CA-NDRC@hcd.ca.gov or mailed to Tuolumne County Administrator's Office (2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370)

1. Agency/Organization Project Sponsor:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

2. Project Contact (Name, Email, Phone #):

Adam Frese; Adam.Frese@fire.ca.gov; (209) 754-2706

3. Scope of Proposed Project- Include Project Goals and Objectives, Timeline and Tasks (Please submit as an attachment, **1 page max**)

4. List all Agency/Organizations involved in Project and their Role:

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE): Project proposal, planning, preparation of appropriate CEQA or NEPA documents on private parcels, project implementation.

Highway 108 Fire Safe Council: Cooperator

Bureau of Land Management: Cooperator. May provide NEPA documentation for areas where fuel break is located on BLM property.

U.S Forest Service: Cooperator. May provide NEPA documentation for areas where the fuel break is located on USFS property.

5. List Measure(s) of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes:

An approximate 658 acre fuel break stretching approximately 18 miles will be constructed along the North Fork Tuolumne River Canyon on the east side of the communities of Tuolumne, Ponderosa Hills, Confidence, Sugar Pine, Mi-Wuk Village, Sierra Village, and Long Barn. This fuel break connects an important series of fuel breaks that will extend along the top of the North Fork Tuolumne River Canyon from Tuolumne to Long Barn. The fuel break will protect residences in the Highway 108 corridor from catastrophic fires, such as the Rim Fire. Expected outcomes will be safer communities and healthy, fire resistant forests.

6. How does this Project meet the resilient recovery objectives outlined in the NDRC grant application?:

This fuel break will meet resilient recovery objectives by making our forests and communities more resistant to large, damaging fires such as the Rim Fire. This new fuel break will compliment other fuel reduction work in the area and will link a series of strategic fuel breaks together. Keeping our forests healthy and resistant to catastrophic, stand replacing fires ensures a healthy timber and tourist industry.

7. What is the target area for the project (i.e., where is it located, who are beneficiaries, etc)?:

The target area stretches approximately 18 miles from Tuolumne to Long Barn, along the top of the North Fork Tuolumne River Canyon. This series of fuel breaks would help contain large damaging fires originating from the North Fork Tuolumne River Canyon. This fuel break was opened during the Rim Fire as a contingency line. Direct beneficiaries are the residents of Tuolumne, Ponderosa Hills, Confidence, Sugar Pine, Mi-Wuk Village, Sierra Village, and Long Barn, whose residences will be protected by the fuel break.

8. Has this project undergone environmental review? If yes, what stage is it in?

Portions of this fuel break pass through existing fuel breaks that have undergone environmental review and the proposed project is within the scope of what was proposed for the existing fuel breaks. The project would consist of mastication and hand crew work. The Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit of CAL FIRE has prepared Categorical Exemptions for similar projects. A categorical exemption would likely apply to the areas not covered by previous fuel breaks.

9. NDRC Application Budget Request (please attach a detailed project budget):

See attached

10. What guarantees are in place to insure the success of implementing this project?

CAL FIRE has a proven track record of planning, implementing, and maintaining strategic fuel breaks in Tuolumne County.

11. How will this project be sustainable after implementation?

This project will be added to the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Fire Plan and will be maintained as part of a strategic fuel break system in the Unit. CAL FIRE works with a variety of cooperators, such as the Highway 108 Fire Safe Council to obtain funds and implement fuel reduction projects.

NDRC Committee Use Only:

EVALUATION CRITERIA: ☐ Meets National Objective ☐ Eligible Activity ☐ Meets Overall Benefit Requirement
☐ Within Target Area ☐ Ties Back to Disaster ☐ Incorporates Resilience
☐ Meets Cost Benefit Analysis Objectives

WORKING GROUP: ☐ Forest ☐ Infrastructure ☐ Public Facilities/Public Services

Rim Contingency Line Scope of Work:

The Rim Contingency Line is located along the rim of the North Fork Tuolumne River Canyon and stretches from Tuolumne to Long Barn. This fire line was constructed during the Rim Fire to protect the communities of Tuolumne, Ponderosa Hills, Confidence, Twain Harte, Sugar Pine, Mi-Wuk, Sierra Village and Long Barn from a large, damaging wild fire coming out of the North Fork Tuolumne Canyon. The Rim Contingency Line passed through several existing fuel breaks. This important line and system of fuel breaks needs to be improved to ensure its effectiveness.

The proposed fuel break is primarily situated on private property, but crosses Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service property as well. Vegetation would best be described as chaparral and oak woodland, transitioning to Sierra Mixed Conifer. Private contractors operating masticators, and CAL FIRE hand crews, will create an approximate 658 acre shaded fuel break by masticating, or cutting, piling, and burning, surface and ladder fuels in the understory. Generally, trees less than 10-inches in diameter at breast height, and brush would be removed to create a shaded fuel break condition. Residual trees will be spaced to break up the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels.

Due to the gentle terrain, masticators are expected to be able to operate on at least 525 acres of the project. Hand crews will be used on areas unable to be treated with a masticator due to isolated steep slopes, rock outcrops, proximity to watercourses or other areas where equipment use may not be appropriate. Hand crews may operate on up to 133 acres of the project area.

The timeline to complete the required environmental documentation is approximately one year which would allow for any surveys to be completed during appropriate times. This environmental work will be conducted by CAL FIRE foresters with input from staff from SPI. Fuel reduction work can be completed in two to four seasons. A total of five years for the project would allow work to be conducted at appropriate times, and provide for contractor availability.

The result of the project will be a shaded fuel break, approximately 18 miles long and 300 feet wide. The fuel break will protect communities along the Highway 108 corridor in Tuolumne County from catastrophic wild fires such as the Rim Fire.

Rim Contingency Line Budget

Fuel Reduction Activities:

658 acres treated at \$1,200 per acre: \$789,600

Approximately 525 acres will be treated with a masticator

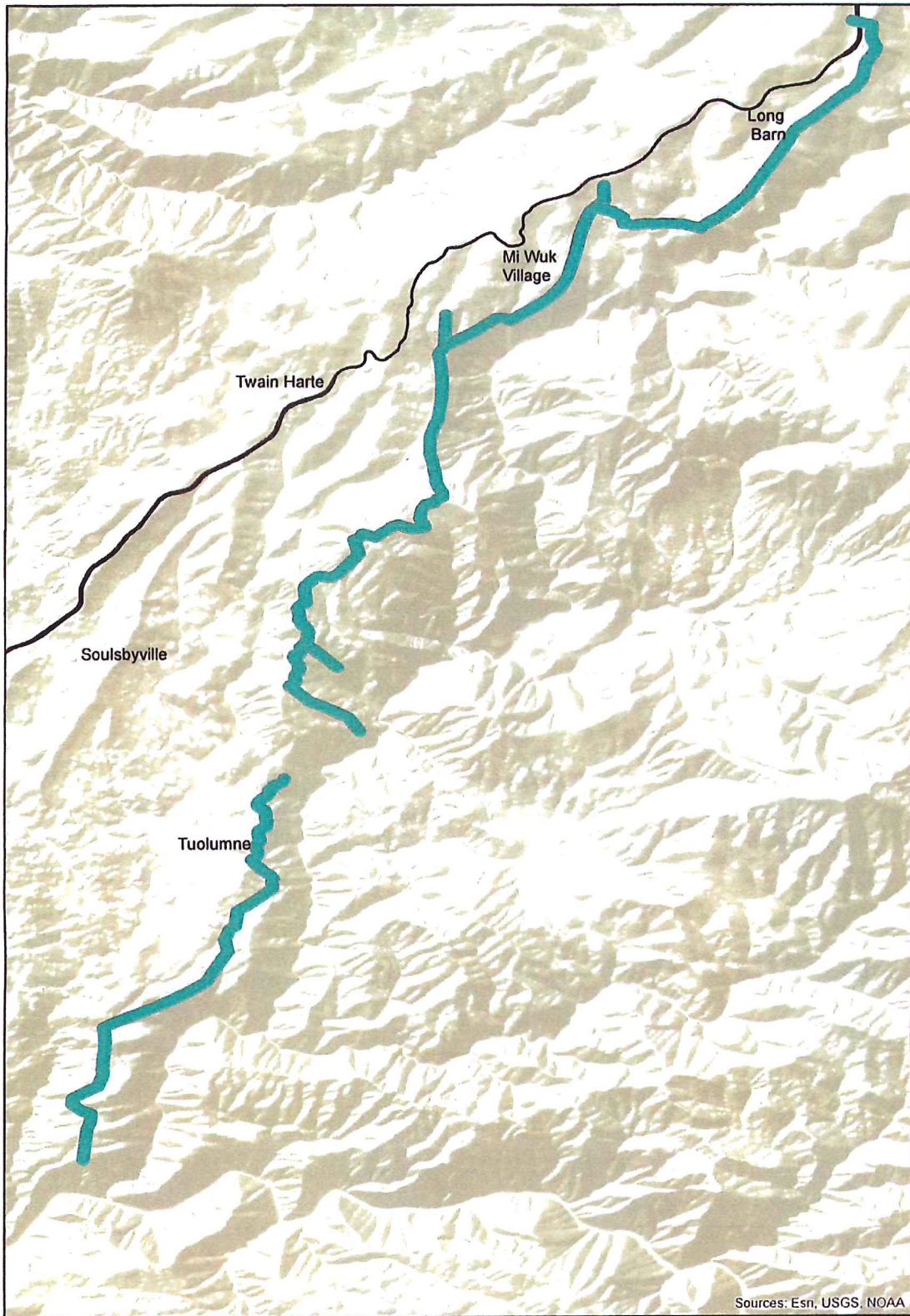
Approximately 133 acres will be treated by hand crews

Project Planning/ Environmental Documents:

Archaeological Records Check: \$1,200.00

Environmental Documentation Filing Fee: \$2,400.00

Total Project Cost: \$793,200.00



Rim Fire Contingency Line

